

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated nucleic acid that is capable of driving transcription in a plant,
wherein said nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence having 95% sequence identity
5 to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.
2. A DNA construct comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 and a nucleotide
sequence operably linked to said nucleic acid.
- 10 3. A vector comprising the DNA construct of claim 2.
4. A plant stably transformed with a DNA construct comprising a first
nucleic acid capable of driving transcription in a plant cell and a second nucleotide
sequence operably linked to said first nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a
15 nucleotide sequence having 95% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in
SEQ ID NO:1.
5. The plant of claim 4, wherein said plant is a monocot.
- 20 6. The plant of claim 5, wherein said monocot is maize.
7. The plant of claim 4, wherein said plant is a dicot.
8. Transformed seed of the plant of claim 4, wherein said seed comprises
25 said expression cassette in its genome.
9. A method for expressing a nucleotide sequence in a plant, said method
comprising transforming a plant cell with a transformation vector comprising a DNA
construct, and regenerating a stably transformed plant from said plant cell, said DNA
30 construct comprising a first nucleic acid capable of driving transcription in a plant cell

and a second nucleotide sequence operably linked to said nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence having 95% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

5 10. The method of claim 9, wherein expression of said operably linked second nucleotide sequence alters the phenotype of said plant.

 11. A plant cell stably transformed with a DNA construct comprising a first nucleic acid capable of driving transcription in a plant cell and a second nucleotide
10 sequence operably linked to said first nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence having 95% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

 12. A promoter element selected from the group consisting of:
15 a) a promoter element having the nucleotide sequence TATGAGATGA;
 b) a promoter element having the nucleotide sequence
CGAT CGACAA;
 c) a promoter element having the nucleotide sequence
GGCACAAGA;
20 d) a promoter element having the nucleotide sequence
GATATAGA T;
 e) a promoter element having the nucleotide sequence set forth in
SEQ ID NO:9;
 f) a promoter element having the nucleotide sequence
25 AGAGCACGC;
 g) a promoter element having the nucleotide sequence AGT TCTG;
 h) a promoter element having the nucleotide sequence AGCTGTA;
and
 i) a promoter element having the nucleotide sequence
30 AT AGATTAC.

13. A promoter having at least one copy of at least one promoter element of claim 12.

5 14. A method for constructing a promoter capable of driving root-preferred expression in a plant cell, said method comprising operably linking a nucleotide sequence comprising a core promoter to at least one copy of at least one promoter element of claim 12.

10 15. A method for selectively expressing a nucleotide sequence in a plant root, said method comprising transforming a plant cell with a transformation vector comprising an expression cassette, and regenerating a stably transformed plant from said plant cell, said expression cassette comprising a promoter and a nucleotide sequence operably linked to said promoter, wherein said promoter is capable of initiating root-
15 preferred transcription of said nucleotide sequence in a plant cell, and wherein said promoter comprises at least one copy of at least one promoter element of claim 12.

16. A plant cell stably transformed with an expression cassette comprising a promoter and a nucleotide sequence operably linked to said promoter, wherein said
20 promoter is capable of initiating root-preferred transcription of said nucleotide sequence in a plant cell, wherein said promoter comprises at least one copy of at least one promoter element of claim 12.

17. A plant stably transformed with an expression cassette comprising a
25 promoter and a nucleotide sequence operably linked to said promoter, wherein said promoter is capable of initiating root-preferred transcription of said nucleotide sequence in a plant cell, wherein said promoter comprises at least one copy of at least one promoter element of claim 12.

30